

1 **Regular Meeting**
2 **Minutes**
3 **April 17, 2006**
4

5 *A Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New*
6 *Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:30pm*
7

8 **Council Present:** *Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman*
9 *Heveran, Councilwoman Mitrani, Councilman Raucci ,*
10 *Councilman Ryan, Council President Puzzo*
11

12 **Council Absent:** *none*
13

14 **Also Present:** *Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, Brian Giblin, Borough Attorney*
15 *Victoria Miragliotta, Borough Administrator, Heidi Wohleb,*
16 *Borough Auditor*
17

18 Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.
19

20 Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Councilman Puzzo led in the
21 Pledge of Allegiance.
22

23 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**
24

25 Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin
26 Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.
27

28 Mayor Cherchi pointed out the fire exit.
29

30 **PUBLIC HEARING**
31

32 Public Hearing and Approval on Budget Amendment Resolution 06-112
33 Mayor Cherchi asked if a member of the public wished to speak regarding the Budget
34 Amendment. No one from the public came forward to speak. Councilwoman Heveran
35 made a motion to approve Resolution 06-112, seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani. Roll
36 call vote: Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes.
37 Resolution approved.
38

39 Public Hearing and Approval of 2006 Amended Municipal Budget Resolution 06-113 –
40 Mayor Cherchi asked if a member of the public wished to speak on the 2006 Amended
41 Budget. No one from the public came forward to speak. Councilwoman Heveran made a
42 motion to approve the 2006 Municipal Budget, Seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani.
43 Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan, Puzzo voted
44 yes. Budget adopted.
45
46

47
48 **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

49 Peter Pulice – 181 Sylvan Avenue – Mr. Pulice spoke regarding deficiencies in the Large
50 Lot Ordinance. Mr. Pulice suggested that the Ordinance be amended so that a lot is no
51 less than 75 feet in width. The way the ordinance is now it is a 500 foot average. With
52 this change it would deter builders from knocking down older homes and putting two
53 homes on smaller sites. Council President Puzzo reported that he had spoken to Mr.
54 Toronto Chairman of the Planning Board regarding this issue. He also spoke with the
55 Borough Administrator and the Borough Attorney who will have something prepared for
56 the next meeting. Borough Attorney Giblin explained the “Time of Decision Law.”
57

58 Kathy Pecht – 215 Fort Lee Road – Mrs. Pecht inquired if the Governing Body has made
59 a decision regarding the Borough Hall Parking Lot? Mayor Cherchi explained that the
60 Council has decided to make two (2) spaces available for the public. Mrs. Pecht would
61 like to see three (3) spaces. Councilman Hawkins noted that the Governing Body has
62 instructed the police to patrol the Library Parking Lot and approximately 5 spaces have
63 opened up there.
64

65 Catherine Mastrokostas – 46 Hawthorne Terrace – would like the hours changed in the
66 Borough Hall parking lot to allow parking after Borough Hall closes at 4:30pm.
67

68 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
69

70 Council Meeting/Work Session Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2006 – Councilman
71 Hawkins made a motion to approve as amended the Minutes of February 6, 2006,
72 seconded by Councilman Raucci. Roll call vote; Councilperson Hawkins, Heveran,
73 Raucci, Ryan, Puzzo, voted yes. Councilwoman Mitrani voted no. Minutes approved.
74

75 Closed Session Minutes of February 6, 2006 – Council President Puzzo made a motion to
76 approve the Closed Session Minutes of February 6, 2006 as amended, Seconded by
77 Councilwoman Heveran. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Raucci, Ryan
78 and Puzzo voted yes. Councilwoman Mitrani voted no. Minutes approved as amended.
79

80 Closed Session February 15, 2006 Council President Puzzo made a motion to adopt as
81 amended Closed Session Minutes of February 15, 2006, seconded by Councilman
82 Raucci. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and
83 Puzzo voted yes. Minutes approved as amended.
84

85 Council Meeting February 22, 2006 – Council Hawkins made a motion to approve the
86 minutes as amended seconded by Councilman Raucci. Roll call vote; Councilpersons
87 Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci and Ryan voted yes. Council President Puzzo
88 abstained. Minutes approved as amended.
89

90 Council Meeting/Work Session March 6, 2006 – Council President Puzzo made a motion
91 to approve the minutes of March 6, 2006, seconded by Councilman Hawkins. Roll call

92 vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes.
93 Minutes approved.

94
95 Closed Session March 6, 2006 – Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve the
96 minutes of March 6, 2006, seconded by Councilman Raucci. Roll call vote;
97 Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Closed
98 Session Minutes approved.

99
100 **STANDING COMMITTEES**

101
102 Finance Administration & Personnel – Councilwoman Heveran reported that the 2006
103 Municipal Budget has been adopted.

104
105 Laws & Ordinances – Council President Puzzo the Committee has met and moving
106 along.

107
108 Police – No Report.

109
110 Fire – No Report.

111
112 Ambulance – No Report. Councilman Raucci inquired the status of the generator. The
113 Borough Administrator noted that bids were being accepted on May 3rd.

114
115 Public Works – Councilman Ryan discussed the memo from Mr. Saitta regarding the
116 need for field equipment. Councilman Ryan also discussed the memo from Mr. Saitta
117 regarding making a temporary employee a permanent full-time employee. The money has
118 been included in the Budget. Mayor Cherchi asked Councilman Ryan to speak with Mr.
119 Saitta for a list of sewer repairs for the Capital Budget. Council President Puzzo asked to
120 have the open vents left by PSE&G.

121
122 Real Estate and Insurance; – Has not met.

123
124 Borough Administrator – The Borough Administrator gave an update on the radio base
125 station. The Borough Administrator reported she is in the process of researching radio
126 consultants. Cell Tower antenna second bid is out. Mr. Peters is closely monitoring the
127 implementation of the tower. The Green Acres Grant for Wood Park has been submitted.
128 The Borough Administrator is reviewing the feasibility of utilizing Open Space Grant
129 money for some of the work in Wood Park. The Borough Administrator is also looking
130 into using environmentally safe cleaning products in the Borough buildings. This may
131 have been the cause of some of the breathing problems in police station. PSE&G has
132 fixed the exposed wires in front of Borough Hall. There is money available for Historic
133 Preservation. The Bergen County Improvement Authority may make available money for
134 Spring Street. There was an act of vandalism at the pool the damage was approximately
135 \$2,400, the perpetrators were apprehended. The DPW is looking into the best way to
136 remove the tree on the triangle.

138 Mayor – Nothing to report.

139
140 Special Bodies to the Borough - Nothing to report

141
142 **RESOLUTIONS**

143 Council President Puzzo made a motion to approve Resolution 06-114, 115,118 – 120A,
144 123 & 124, seconded by Councilman Raucci. Roll call vote; all Council present voted yes
145 Resolutions approved.

146
147 Councilwoman Heveran asked to discuss 06-121 & 06-122 - Council President Puzzo
148 made a motion to approve Resolutions 06-121 & 06-122 seconded by Councilwoman
149 Heveran. Roll call vote; all Council present voted yes. Resolutions approved.

150
151 Councilman Ryan – 06-117 questioned if the mechanism is in place if the employee
152 leaves on a fire call. The Borough Administrator said yes it is covered under a State Law.
153 Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to approve Resolution 06-117, seconded by
154 Councilman Puzzo. On Roll call vote; all Council present voted yes. Resolution
155 approved.

156
157 Councilman Ryan - Resolution 06-125 Councilwoman Mitrani questioned the amount of
158 the resolution. The Council discussed the amount being charged by the Borough
159 Engineer. Council President Puzzo made a motion to approve Resolution 06-125
160 seconded by Councilman Raucci. Councilwoman Mitrani made a motion to amend the
161 Resolution by adding “not to exceed \$10,000” seconded by Council President Puzzo.
162 Roll call vote on the amendment; Councilperson Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci,
163 Puzzo voted yes. Councilman Ryan voted no. Amendment approved. Roll call vote on the
164 resolution, Councilpersons, Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Puzzo, voted yes.
165 Councilman Ryan voted no. Resolution 06-125 approved.

166
167 **CORRESPONDENCE**

168
169 Councilwoman Heveran asked for a clarification on the Rules of Order regarding New
170 Business on the third meeting and Closed Session. Borough Attorney Giblin stated it is
171 listed under “J” and Closed Session is not listed for a Regular Meeting. Councilwoman
172 Heveran asked to have this on the next meeting.

173
174 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

175
176 Robert Pacicco, 325 Highview - Mr. Pacicco complimented the Borough regarding an
177 issue of an unsafe tree on Leonia Avenue. Mr. Pacicco noted that the van is still in the lot
178 it has been there three months. Next to the van there is a pile of branches that have been
179 there for a month. Councilman Hawkins spoke to Chief Ziegler who informed him the
180 van would be taken care of.

184
185 Peter Massa, 191 Ray Avenue – Mr. Massa questioned the Commuter Parking Ordinance.
186
187 Councilwoman Mitrani made a motion to go into Closed Session, seconded by
188 Councilman Ryan. Discussion Councilwoman Heveran inquired if this in violation
189 because it does not follow the Rules of Order. Mr. Giblin stated that either the Mayor or a
190 Councilperson can put something on the agenda in Closed Session. Two Council
191 members voted Aye. Four Council members voted no.

192
193 **CLOSED SESSION** (Resolution G)

194
195 Councilman Puzzo made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm, seconded by Councilwoman
196 Heveran. All in favor; none opposed.

197
198
199 Respectfully submitted,

200
201
202 Fran Lehmann
203 Borough Clerk
204